



NEWS

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas L.A. County Board of Supervisors, 2nd District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BOARD APPROVES SUPPORTING FULL REIMBURSEMENT FOR SPECIAL ELECTIONS

LOS ANGELES – The Board of Supervisors today approved a request by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas calling on the state to fully reimburse the County for costs associated with conducting special vacancy elections for Legislative and Congressional seats.

The Supervisor said that in order to safeguard the Democratic process it is imperative that funding for local elections should not be compromised.

Since legislative term limits were instituted by voters in 1990, the state has reimbursed the county for costs associated with conducting special elections to fill vacancies.

"I'm concerned that these reimbursements are not guaranteed, nor do they cover the full costs of administering these elections," the Supervisor said, referring to a May 11 report from the County's Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk. . "And while the cost of conducting elections has increased significantly over time, state reimbursement has not."

Between 2000 and 2009, 15 elections were conducted to fill Legislative and Congressional vacancies. These special elections cost nearly \$11 million. State reimbursement for these costs totaled less than half of the actual election costs (\$4,313,200). Factoring for state reimbursements, net cost to the County totaled \$7,904,435.

The Supervisor's request directs the County's lobbyists in Sacramento, in conjunction with the County Supervisors Association of California, to pursue legislation to seek full reimbursement.

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